

briefly share with you an experience, I think it will be helpful.

In 1959 and 1960 I was chairman of a commission which ultimately drew the legislation for the Baltimore Metropolitan Transit Authority. I want to tell the members of this committee that there is no more fascinating psychological scare term than "regional government."

I want to tell you, any kind of regional government arrangement has enough hurdles to jump in a General Assembly without adding to it the additional burden of mandatory referendum.

In that particular era, each state senator, of course, had the power of veto, and I can assure you that had it not been for some considerable arm-twisting, we would have not had, not only the Metropolitan Transit Authority, but the Port Authority, as well.

It would seem to me that it would be an unmerciful thing, a crippling blow to the development of regional government to require a referendum on all occasions.

I feel that there is enough built-in, innate resistance against regional government; people come forward with the fact that it has foreign origins that exist in nondemocratic nations, they have all sorts of devices to impede passage of valuable legislation. I submit that to require mandatory legislation in all cases would simply be to set the cause of regional government back decades to say the least.

I would urge you to vote against this amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any delegate desire to speak in favor of the amendment?

The Chair recognizes Delegate Rybczynski.

DELEGATE RYBCZYNSKI: I will take the place of one speaking in favor but I really want to speak in the place of peace-maker in this case. I think what is really intended here by the maker of the amendment—I hope I am saying this correctly—is to give the people the opportunity at referendum, I suggest we go all the way back to the debate on Friday when we talked about the very first sentence of the S&E Report 1.

I strongly suggest that in this case another meeting of our two very able committee chairmen will be very helpful so that on second reading there might possibly be some new thought brought forth on this floor.

Meantime, for the first time since I have been down here I am going to pass on a vote.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair recognizes Delegate Boyles to speak in opposition to the amendment.

DELEGATE BOYLES: The Committee on Local Government worked hard to set up a system of local government in this Article to strengthen the counties. But we did not do this at the expense of setting up twenty-four independent kingdoms or republics in the State of Maryland.

If we limit the power of the General Assembly with this amendment to do what it would like to do in the case of larger than county problems, we have taken from the General Assembly a valuable tool.

I realize the desire of the delegate from Baltimore County is to safeguard what she feels are the rights of people from Baltimore County. But I think the rights of the people of the State of Maryland transcend the rights of the people of Baltimore County.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any other delegate desire to speak in favor of the amendment? Delegate Chabot.

DELEGATE CHABOT: Yes, sir. The ways in which this amendment could tie the hands of the General Assembly trying to proceed responsibly have been indicated. I suggest also that this amendment would in no practical way tie the hands of a General Assembly that was trying to proceed in an irresponsible manner.

The sentence as written with the amendment would not specify the area within which the referendum must be held. It would not specify the nature of the vote needed to affirm the law or the amount of vote needed to strike down the law.

It would suggest that there must be more than one referendum held on the matter without specifying whether or not there must in fact be more than one and, if so, how many.

In short, I suggest that the amendment would not at all accomplish the objectives of the maker of the amendment but would only create problems which the maker of the amendment probably did not intend to create by the amendment. Consequently, I would suggest the amendment be voted down.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Moser, would you yield to a question?